

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of :
 - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
 - (b) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 25;
 - (c) a fragment of an nucleic acid molecule of any of (a)- (b); and
 - (d) a complement of an nucleic acid molecule of any of (a)- (c).
2. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.
3. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO : 2.
4. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
5. (Original) The vector of claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to an expression control sequence.
6. (Original) A prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell containing a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
7. (Original) A prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell containing the vector of claim 4.
8. (Original) A prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell containing the vector of claim 5.
9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising culturing the host cell of claim 7 ~~or 9~~ in a suitable nutrient medium.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said host cell is *E. coli*.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising isolating a protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule from said cultured cells or said nutrient medium.
12. (Original) An isolated protein by method of claim 11.
13. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein selected from the group consisting of
 - (a) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, or 25; and
 - (b) a fragment of the protein of (a).
14. (Original) The isolated protein of claim 13 comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO : 2.
15. (Original) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence, wherein said amino acid sequence has one or more conservative amino acid substitutions relative to SEQ ID NO: 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, or 25.
16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and a protein of claim 13,~~14, or 15~~.
17. (Currently Amended) A method of stimulating proliferation, differentiation or migration of epithelial cells or mesenchymal cells comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising an isolated protein of claim 13,~~14 or 15~~.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said composition further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (Original) The method of any of claims 17, wherein said epithelial cells or mesenchymal cells locate at the alimentary tract of said subject.
20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said epithelial cells or mesenchymal cells locate at the pulmonary tract of said subject.
21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said subject is a mammal.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said mammal is a human.
23. (Original) A method for determining the presence or amount of the protein of claim 13 in a sample, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing said sample;
 - (b) introducing said sample to an antibody that binds immunospecifically to the protein; and
 - (c) determining the presence or amount of antibody bound to said protein, thereby allowing the determination of the presence or amount of protein in said sample.
24. (Original) A method for determining the presence of or predisposition to a disease associated with altered levels of expression of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a first mammalian subject, the method comprising:
 - a) measuring the level of expression of the nucleic acid in a sample from the first mammalian subject; and
 - b) comparing the level of expression of said nucleic acid in the sample of step (a) to the level of expression of the nucleic acid present in a control sample from a second mammalian subject known not to have or not be predisposed to, the disease;
wherein an alteration in the level of expression of the nucleic acid in the first subject as compared to the control sample indicates the presence of or predisposition to the disease.